

Bollington Urban District.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1897.

*Read at a Meeting of the Bollington District Council,
held on the 10th March, 1898.*

BOLLINGTON :

H. H. POTTS, PRINTER AND STATIONER, PALMERSTON STREET.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health FOR 1897.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bollington Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

The year 1897 will ever be remembered as the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. In Bollington as elsewhere, the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majestys' reign on the 20th June, 1897, was celebrated amid numerous manifestations of loyalty and affection to the throne. Though unfortunately a proposal made by your Chairman and a few devoted residents to set up some permanent memorial of the event, such as the erection of a Sanatorium for patients suffering from infectious diseases, fell through chiefly, I think, owing to lack of funds, there being so many calls upon the inhabitants just at the time.

A perusal of the facts and figures on which this report is based, will serve to indicate a continuous and steady improvement in the healthiness of the district during the past year. The general death-rate and infant mortality both being below the average of the past ten years. There was likewise a considerable decrease in the zymotic mortality.

MORTALITY.—The total number of deaths from all causes registered during the year was 62, but two of these were persons not belonging to Bollington—without however making any deduction for these and estimating the population to the middle of 1897, to have been 3903, or the same as last census, we have an annual death-rate of 15·8 per thousand. Though this is slightly higher than last year, it is as I have said, below the average of the last ten years. The lowest death-rate recorded 3·07 per thousand, per annum, was in May, next 6·14 in October, and the highest death-rates were in the months of February, April and August, viz. :—24·5 per thousand. The death-rate in England and Wales in 1897, having been 17·4 per thousand.

ZYMOTIC MORTALITY.—The total number of deaths from zymotic diseases was 4. This gives an annual zymotic death-rate of 1·02 which is exactly one-half that of the last year (1896), and ·41 below the average of the last seven years. The zymotic death-rate throughout England and Wales in 1897 was 2·15 per thousand.

BIRTHS.—The total number of births registered was 90 ; 50 males and 40 females. This is 6 fewer than last year, and considerably under the average of the last ten years, and is equal to a birth-rate of only 23 per thousand, being 6·7 below the birth-rate in England and Wales in 1897.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The total number of infectious diseases notified under the Act was 28, being 5 less than in 1896, and 1 above the average of the last seven years. The number of cases of the several diseases being as follows:—Scarlatina 22, Erysipelas 4, and Typhoid Fever 2. There were no cases of Smallpox, Diphtheria, Puerperal Fever or Croup reported.

SCARLET FEVER.—Twenty-two cases of this disease were notified of which 5 were in the East Ward, 5 in the Central Ward, and 12 in the West Ward. One-half the cases occurred during the first three months of the year, chiefly among children who attended schools situated in the adjoining rural district, in consequence of which these schools were closed for a time, thereby effectively checking the spread of the disease. All the patients were at once isolated as far as possible in their homes and the other children of school age kept from school, until the house and clothing had been disinfected, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. There were no deaths from this disease many of the cases being of a mild character.

TYPHOID FEVER.—Two cases of this disease were notified both being in the West Ward, but single cases, and were found to have been imported. The patients recovered satisfactorily—one indeed very quickly—and there was no extension.

ERYSIPELAS.—Four cases of this disease were notified—1 in East Ward, and 3 in West Ward. They were so very slight as not to call for any special notice.

DIARRHŒA. This disease was somewhat prevalent amongst children during the summer months—one death was caused by it in August. Improper feeding as is well known often tends to bring on diarrhœa—moreover it is more frequent in warm weather, when the local atmosphere is liable to contamination in a variety of ways—as for instance by effluvia arising from defective drains, faulty open middens, or from the filthy foundations of badly built houses. The remedy, then, is to be found in purifying the soil by preventing filth from finding its way into it, no matter whether this proceeds from broken or defective drains or whether such filth has been thrown upon the surface.

MEASLES.—Several cases of this disease occurred in the last quarter of the year but not as an epidemic—One of which unhappily terminated fatally at Beeston Brow in December.

INFLUENZA.—This disease was again met with at different times during the year, and the deaths of two elderly people in the Central Ward were attributed to it.

PHTHISIS.—Six deaths were registered from this form of tubercular disease, which is more commonly known as consumption or decline, against five deaths in 1896. It will also be seen that there were six more deaths besides these recorded from other forms of tuberculosis—making twelve in all. The latter will be found in this report under the heads of tubercular peritonitis, marasmus, tuberculosis &c., as the case may be. But under whatever name we find them, they are all alike in their source of origin, being transmitted through the agency of the tubercle bacillus, and not due to heredity as was formerly supposed. And further, which is of more consequence, they are equally infective, and preventable diseases though not at present required to be notified. Is it not therefore deplorable to contemplate that those 12 patients who fell victims to tubercular disease in Bollington, during the past year—not be it borne in mind old and infirm people—but young persons on the very threshold of life, and innocent children, might if only they had been placed under more favourable conditions, have been alive and well to-day. What it may be asked are the precautionary measures necessary to prevent the spread of so terrible a disease, which is seen to have caused one-fifth of our deaths? This is no doubt an important question, but far too large to be fully considered in this report. However, in respect to a great proportion of our daily food, as it has been found that milk, and meat, from tuberculous

animals are liable to convey tuberculosis to human beings, we can easily see that these are rendered innocuous, by always being first boiled or otherwise well cooked before being consumed, and further, that the air we have to breathe in our living rooms and workshops, be kept perfectly clean and pure, by plenty of ventilation.

With respect to other causes of death met with in this report, it is I think unnecessary to refer to them more particularly, except to point out the absence of any from violence, and that no inquests were held.

CEMETERY.—With regard to providing a cemetery for the district, a question which had become one of extreme urgency—the following satisfactory arrangement has at length been made. A plot of land adjoining the old grave yard of nearly equal extent, has been added to the church yard, which will probably serve for the inhabitants as a burial ground during the next quarter of a century. It is however distinctly stipulated in respect to a portion of this land—132 feet long, and 30 feet wide, or thereabout, running parallel with Church Street—that it shall always be reserved as ornamental ground, and not at any time be used for interment purposes.

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.—Together with the Sanitary Inspector, I have made several visits to suspected insanitary parts of the district on different occasions during the year. The Inspector alone visiting the same very frequently—in fact almost daily—has exercised a constant supervision over the whole district throughout the year, reporting at once upon any defects he met with, to the Council. From reports made by him to me, I find that he has served 30 notices to owners or agents of properties to abate nuisances, which have for the most part been attended to. He has disinfected 19 houses after infectious disease. He has had control over the scavenging, but in this matter I think an improvement is needed, so as to prevent the contents of the transport carts from being spilled on to the street as is now too often the case. This no doubt arises either from the carts being badly overloaded or in consequence of their not being watertight. 33 privies and ashpits found to be faulty have been reconstructed—607 loads of nightsoil have been removed during the year against 545 in 1896. He has also visited the Dairies, Shippens and Cow Sheds several times during the year, and reports them as being fairly good and satisfactory. He has likewise inspected the Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses at different times. Besides the forenamed, a separate and independent inspection, more especially of those parts of the district to which reference was made in my last report, as being exceptionally bad, was made by Mr. Robertson of Manchester. In his report several important remedies are indicated as urgently needed, the majority of which have been adopted, though some like the Lower House drainage are still in abeyance.

IN CONCLUSION.—It will be seen from the foregoing statistics that the general sanitary condition of the district was decidedly good if not excellent in 1897, though in one or two directions there is yet room for improvement. And except for the continued depression in the cotton trade and other allied industries, upon which the inhabitants chiefly depend, the population might have shown a perceptible increase or certainly would not have remained stationary so long. Still the low death-rates from all causes, of the last two years, afford matter for congratulation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

Bollington,

JAS. ALLEN.

28th February, 1898.

MORTALITY

From the 25th December, 1896, to 29th December, 1897, the total number of Deaths in the District from all causes in the homes of the people was 62.

DEATH RATE

According to the Population at the Census of 1891, 62 Deaths would give a rate per 1,000 of 15·8

DETAILS OF DEATH.

No.	Date. 1897.	RESIDENCE.	SEX.	AGE.	OCCUPATION.	CAUSE OF DEATH.
1.	Jan. 8...	C....Defiance street	F	85 years	Widow	Senile decay.
2.	12...	C....Queen street	F	6 years	F Cotton operative	Phthisis pulmonalis.
3.	18...	E....Church street	M	7 months	F Hatter	Bronchitis.
4.	27...	E....Church street	M	59 years	Beerhouse keeper	Cancer of mouth.
5.	Feb. 4...	C....Spinner's Arms Hotel	M	47 years	Innkeeper	Cirrhosis of liver.
6.	8...	W....Princess street	F	2 years	F Cotton operative	Gastro-enteritis.
7.	9...	E....Union street	M	13 months	F Labourer	Tabes mesenterica.
8.	11...	C....Market place	M	42 years	Cotton operative	Phthisis pulmonalis.
9.	12...	E....Shrigley road	F	71 years	H Warehouseman	Anæmia.
10.	13...	W....Adlington road	F	70 years	H Coal miner	Senile decay.
11.	17...	C....Palmerston street	F	26 years	Cotton operative	Phthisis pulmonalis.
12.	18..	W....Aqueduct house	F	10 months	F Cotton operative	Convulsions.
13.	Mar. 21...	E....Shrigley road	M	54 years	Labourer	Heart disease.
14.	26...	E....Shrigley road	F	80 years	Widow	Senile decay.
15.	28...	C....High street	F	55 years	Spinster	Influenza.
16.	29...	E....Church street	F	62 years	Widow	Phthisis.

DETAILS OF DEATH—Continued.

No.	Date.	RESIDENCE.	SEX.	AGE.	OCCUPATION.	CAUSE OF DEATH.
17.	Apr. 3...	E...Adlington road	F	2 years	F Cotton operative	Tubercular meningitis.
18.	4...	C...Water street	F	75 years	H Overlooker	Heart disease.
19.	7...	W...Henshall road	F	65 years	Widow	Carcinoma of liver
20.	9...	C...Water street	F	29 years	H Labourer	Pneumonia.
21.	13...	E...Palmerston street	M	65 years	Labourer	Bronchitis.
22.	15...	W...Princess street	F	62 years	H Silkweaver	Disease of liver.
23.	26...	E...Church street	M	69 years	Shopkeeper	Cancer of rectum.
24.	27...	W...Henshall road	M	60 years	Carter	Chronic bronchitis
25.	May 10...	E...Hope street	F	75 years	Widow	Senile decay.
26.	June 10...	W...School brow	M	2 months	F Quarryman	Debility from birth.
27.	11	C...Water street	F	71 years	Widow	Influenza.
28.	12...	E...Lord street	M	47 days	F Labourer	Bronchitis
29.	17...	W...Henshall road	M	4 years	F Shopkeeper	Acute laryngitis
30.	20...	W...Lower houses	M	81 years	Warehouseman	Senile decay.
31.	26...	C...High street	M	73 years	Labourer	Heart disease.
32.	28...	E...Palmerston street	M	12 months	F Labourer	Tabes mesenterica.
33.	July 15...	E...Lord street	M	3 days	F Silk weaver	Debility from birth
34.	26...	E...Shrigley road	M	79 years	Labourer	Senile decay.
35.	26...	C...Palmerston street	M	4 months	F Butcher	Tubercular peritonitis.
36.	31...	C...Red lion brow	M	60 years	Quarryman	Fibroid phthisis
37.	29...	C...Water street	F	11 months	F Tinplate worker	Bronchitis
38.	Aug. 4...	E...Nab farm	M	2 years	F Farmer	Cerebral meningitis.
39.	7...	E...Church street	M	82 years	Butcher	Senile decay.
40.	11...	W...Waterhouse	M	75 years	Cotton spinner	Enteritis
41.	14...	C...Oldham street	M	7 months	F Hatter	Marasmus
42.	18...	E...Union street	M	8 months	F Slater	Diarrhoea.
43.	21...	C...Oldham street	M	45 years	Labourer	Hodgkin's disease.
44.	21...	E...Lord street	F	8 years	F Brewer	Phthisis pulmonalis.

DETAILS OF DEATH—Continued.

No.	Date.	RESIDENCE.	SEX.	AGE.	OCCUPATION	CAUSE OF DEATH.
15.	Sept. 8... 1897.	C...Defiance street	M	65 years	Labourer	Cardiac disease.
16.	12...	W...Wellington road	F	75 years	H Overlooker	Senile decay.
17.	12...	E...Church street	M	32 years	Hatter	Anemia.
18.	19...	C...Water street	M	77 years	Labourer	Senile decay.
19.	Oct. 17...	W...Garden street	F	34 years	H Railway servant	Tuberculosis of larynx.
20.	26...	E...Beeston mount	F	66 years	H Coal miner	Morbus cordis.
21.	Nov. 4...	C...Oldham street	F	60 years	Cotton operative	Right hemiplegia.
22.	9...	C...Oldham street	F	58 years	Cotton operative	Heart disease.
23.	21...	C...Queen street	M	50 years	Labourer	Pneumonia
24.	24...	C...High street	M	66 years	H Cotton operative	Heart disease.
25.	28...	E...Vine street	M	69 years	Coal miner	Senile decay.
26.	Dec. 8...	C...Beeston brow	F	9 months	F Stone mason	Measles.
27.	8...	E...Church street	F	59 years	H Labourer	Morbus cordis.
28.	12...	W...Greenshaw lane	F	53 years	Widow	Chronic bronchitis.
29.	18...	C...High street	F	85 years	Widow	Senile decay.
30.	19...	E...Church street	M	53 years	Parish clerk	Broncho pneumonia.
31.	21...	W...Lower houses	F	4 months	F Cotton operative	Marasmus.
32.	29...	W...Greenshaw lane	F	59 years	Domestic servant	Diabetes.
Deaths in District under V years - 17						
E			23	Males.....	31	V years upwards - 45
Cent.			23	Females.....	31	
W			16			
Total ...			62	Total	62	

Nos. 45 and 49 did not belong to district

A TABLE OF DEATHS during the year 1897, in the BOLLINGFON URBAN DISTRICT
classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.							Total.
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Measles.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	All other Diseases.	
EAST WARD	23	4	3	1	...	6	9	Under 5 5 upwards	1 ...	...	2 2	... 3	... ...	4 9	7 16
CENTRAL WARD ...	23	4	...	1	...	10	8	Under 5 5 upwards	1 ...	...	1 2	.. 5	... 2	2 6	4 19
WEST WARD	16	3	3	...	...	5	5	Under 5 5 upwards	... ...	...	... 2	... ...	... ...	6 8	6 10
Totals.....	62	11	6	2	...	21	22	Under 5 5 upwards	1 ...	... 6	3 6	... 8	... 2	12 23	17 45

B TABLE of POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES of INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1897, in the BOLLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES		Registered Births.		NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.		
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1898.			Scarlatina	Enteric or Typhoid	Erysipelas
EAST WARD	1350	1350	39	Under 5 5 upwards	2 ... 3 ...	... 1
CENTRAL WARD	1333	1333	36	Under 5 5 upwards	1 ... 4 ...	... ...
WEST WARD	1220	1220	15	Under 5 5 upwards	4 ... 8 ...	... 3
TOTALS	3903	3903	90	Under 5 5 upwards	7 ... 15 ...	... 4

“Notification of Infectious Disease” has been compulsory in the District since January 1st, 1890.
The District has no Isolation Hospital.

C

TABLE SHOWING the NUMBER of DEATHS from the Principal ZYMOTIC DISEASES,
and their proportion to other Diseases, in 10 years (1888 to 1897 inclusive).

DISEASES.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	Total in 10 years.
Measles	1	...	5	...	...	...	...	8	...	1	15
Scarlatina.....	2	1	...	...	...	1	7	...	1	...	12
Diphtheria .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Croup .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough .....	...	2	...	...	4	...	...	...	5	...	11
Fever. { Typhus..... Enteric or Typhoid..... Other or Doubtful .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
	...	3	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	0
Diarrhoea and Dysentery.....	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Erysipelas .....	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	3
Puerperal fever .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2
Total Zymotic Diseases ...	6	7	8	2	7	1	8	8	8	2	57
Total other Diseases	65	60	77	60	67	56	49	75	50	60	619
Total from all Diseases	71	67	85	62	74	57	57	83	58	62	676

